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Conversation between Secretary Kissinger and Prime Minister Ecevit

July 21 - 10:40 a.m.

Kissinger: Good morning, Mr. Prime Minister.

Ecevit: Good morning, Dr. Kissinger. We are in the middle of a Security Council meeting to discuss this matter. We have a problem. We doubt the reliability of Greece. Ioannides word of honor is a joke. We have now figured out what the joke is behind his words. He said we could fire on any ships bearing Greek flags. His ships are drawing Turkish flags!

Kissinger: Well, no one can blame you if you sink your own ships.

Ecevit: No, Dr. Kissinger, they are not our own ships. They are Greek ships. They are Greek ships drawing Turkish flags.

Kissinger: Yes, Mr. Prime Minister, but you can sink them if they are not your ships but are flying Turkish flags.

Ecevit: They are using two tricks. We are NATO allies and the Turkish pilots know our codes. They speak Turkish. They call our pilots in Turkish using our codewords. We can no longer rely on the words of Greece.

Kissinger: What exactly is it that you want? I know you are an intelligent man -- I know that from the days of Harvard. With all due respect, I cannot take this. This can go on for six weeks on this basis.

Ecevit: They say that they want an armistice. It has become obvious that they want to exploit the cease-fire for massing troops on the islands. The Greeks must cease these methods.

Kissinger: What methods should they cease?

Ecevit: They say that they are ready for a cease-fire. They have already shown us the tricks that they will use to violate the cease-fire.

Kissinger: Are you telling me you will not accept a cease-fire?

Ecevit: We will accept a cease-fire.

Kissinger: Today?

Ecevit: We are in the middle of discussing the problem now.

Kissinger: That means many more hours of delay again.

Ecevit: We have been occupied with the matter of these flags in our Security Council meeting. They had given us their word that no Greek ships would be around Cyprus.

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We cannot rely on them. I will let you know. I will call you when the meeting is over.

Kissinger: Whatever the outcome is, it will be to the long-term disadvantage of Turkey.

Ecevit: I will telephone you.

Kissinger: It is not possible for the U.S. to stay its passage any longer.

Ecevit: I will call you.

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